

[Judge J. Faudie]

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[Life History?]

FOLKLORE:

Miss Effie Cowan, P.W.

McLennan County, Texas,

District 8.

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REFERENCE:

Interview with Judge J. Faudie, Riesel Texas. (White pioneer)

"I was born in Legelhurst, in Baden Germany on the first day of December 1851. My fathers name was [?] George Faudie , he was a farmer and raised wheat, barley, hemp. fruit and clover and had some cattle and horses. He worked oxen to the plow. He died when I was two years old and [?] my mother married again, she had four boys and one girl.

"When I was in my 'teens I went to rance France and worked as a linden weaver until I was twenty years old. Then I had to serve in the army in Germany. We were supposed to serve three years. I served one year and received four cents a day and my board. This did not

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buy my clothes so after a year of service I got a furlough and went on a visit to my mother. When I reached home there was a couple going to America, and I told my mother that if I had the money I would go too.

“She made some argements and gave me enough to pay my fare to the new country of America where we were told that we could have freedom to live our lives as we wished. My ship fare was about twenty dollars in money (American). We took an old merchant ship from France and changed to a steamer in Liverpool bound for America. It took us six weks to arrive at New Orleans, we arrived there the 9th, day of April 1873. When I reached New Orleans I found many strange sights. C.12 - 2/[????] 2 “The strangest sight that greeted me was the Negroes unloading the ships at the wharves. They seemed to be very happy as they worked, they would sing songs in a low tone, so different to the songs of my native land that I was thrilled by them. I remember one song that they sang which was something like this, “Happy darkies workin' on de levee, Happy darkies workin' on de levee, Happy darkies workin' on de levee, Waitin' for de steamboats to come down. What is dat I hear a whistlin' loud an' clear? O O—O— O— O— O ah—a! I think hit is de Natchett or de Robert Lee. Come along an' jine our ban' An' how happy we will be.

“Well [?] I did not join [?] their ban' but instead I got a job as ice man. My boss's name was Roths- hild child , he taught me the city and the ice route. When I took the ice into the stores and the saloons I had to take a drink with him, first he, and then myself would treat to the drinks. After [?] I learned the route it was turned over to me and so I kept this job until one of my friends from the old country came, on his way to Illinois to live with an uncle, so I went with him and worked for his uncle who owned a brick yard. I worked in his brick yard until I finally left and went down into Arkansas. 3 “When we went to Illinois we took a steamboat and went up the [?] Mississippi River to Grandtower. It took us four days to make the trip and cost us three dollars each. We stayed on the deck and did not take a berth. [?] This was in the summer of 1834 and I married my boss daughter, her name was Elizabeth Erhardt. When we went to get the liscense we had to take my boss partner to

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prove that she was old enough to marry and that her parents gave their consent. She was only fifteen years old.

"We were married by the County udge Judge in Murfreesboro Ill. We went home and her parents gave us a big wedding su er supper with all kinds of good things to eat and wine and beer to drink. This was in 1875 and we lived there two years. I had been working in a rock quarry and it went out of business and some friend moved to Arkansas and we decided to go with him. So we hitched up our teams to our wagon and drove down to Oceola Arkansas. It took me six weeks to make the trip, for the roads were rough and rocky and when we would have to go up a hill we would have to unload and carry our things in our arms some of the time. When we crossed the Arkansas River we had to ord ford it.

"There [?] were so many hills that one of my horses got loose from us and could not be found. That left me with just two horses. When we reached Mississippi County, Arkansa we rented some land from an Irishman. The next spring it rained [?] so hard that the whole country was under water and when I went [?] anywhere I had to go in boats for some time after the rains, had to haul our fuel, (wood and coal) in boats and had bad [?] times all that spring. So finally it was getting to be summer time. 4 "When the summer came I took the malarial fever and so had to have negroes to finish my crop. You will remember that I had never seen any negroes to amount t to anything except when I reached New Orleans, and I was amused to hear them sing of their work as they did. I was told that before the war between the states that the burden of their song was freedom, but now after the war was over they would sing of their work and to me it was a source of amusment. I lay on my bed of illness and from my window I could hear their voices as they sang, "I'se goin' from de cotton field, I'se goin' from de cane, I'se goin' from de little log hut Dat sets up in de lane. Dey tell me up in Kansas, So many miles away, Dey tell me up dere, honey, Dey're gettin' bettah pay.

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"Much as I loved the South I had to go back to Illinois to get well so in the year I farmed in Arkansas I had to go to the hospital in St Louis to get treated for the malaria and when the doctors told me to leave the malarial country I took my [?] wife and two children and went to Jacksonville and lived there until 1888. About this time there was a boom on in California and I joined a company of emigrants and went to this state and worked in a rock and stone quarry. 5 "Where the people use the negro labor in the south, in California they use the [?] Chinese . There were four white men who were foreman and each white man had from twenty to thirty chinamen working under him. The white men were paid \$1.75 a day and the Chinese were paid a dollar a day. They were good workers but it was hard t to make them understand what we wanted them to do.

"After the boom was over in California the people commenced to talk about te s Texas , there were men there boosting Texas so we decided, my family and myself, to come and see if Texas was what it was advertise to be, rich land, and plenty of it and cheap as well. So we came to Waco Texas on the train and I met a man by the name of Torrance on the square and rented a place from him near Axtell Texas, made a crop, but there was pasture land joining my place and the stock got into it and destroyed my crop, so I left this lace place and found one in the German settlment near Perry Texas.

"It seemed that my bad luck had at last left me and I bought land in this community in 1895 and paid \$20.00 an acre for it. We were in the Alexander school settlement, two miles from Perry, had two churches, the [?] Lutheran and the Methodist, Rev. Schuler was the Methodist preacher I believe at one time, and later lived in Waco. There was fine hunting and fishing up and down the Brazos bottom and plenty of wild game out on the prairie.

"My wife died in 1904 and in 1905 I married Mrs Ernestine Hamburg. 6 I had fourteen children, eight lived to be grown. [??] Two son's , Charlie and August went to the World War. Charlie died soon after he returned. August was in France, and was in the army of occupation after the war closed. They paid my debt for me to the old country, I never went

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back to serve my time in the army, for had I gone I might have been punished as well as had to serve it out.

“I have become an American citizen long ago, and was glad that my boys could serve this country of my adoption when they crossed, to help pay the debt that the Americans owed to France, even if we were not here in those early days. In my wanderings in America have not found any place that has been equal to this central part of the state where I have lived ever since I came here in 1890.

“As I understand it the German settlers assumed the duties and the responsibilities of American citizenship. They took part in the Texas [?] Revolution , the ar war against Mexico, the War Between the tates States The Spanish - American War and the World ar War , thus proving their loyalty to their adopted country.